

never even seen a rugby ball and then playing in a match after only 8 weeks and watching them achieve. That's incredible! I will also miss seeing students at the end of the year... how they have grown from kids into adults. And of course the staff community because we are a small community and we all need to get along with each other and I think everybody does. It is a nice environment to work in.

**Mon: What advice would you give to your replacement?**

**Mr Tredwell:** Get to know the students I guess... you know... it is an enjoyable job so I would just say make the best from something that is very pleasant to do.

**Ilija: What are you going to do once you retire from TSI?**

**Mr Tredwell:** First of all I'm going on holiday to Mexico for two weeks, although I'm going to have a couple of weeks before we go to sort out things at home. Then I'm going to come back, have a couple of weeks off and then I'm going to look for something part time, maybe just two or three days a week, hopefully doing outdoor activities like canoeing or climbing, things that I enjoy. Also I would like to get myself back into running again, getting fit again and also just spending more time with my wife so we can do more things together. Visiting some other countries together, like Latvia, Thailand and China.

**Mon: If there was one piece of advice you could give to students, what would it be?**

**Mr Tredwell:** There is a poem that everybody thought was written by Rudyard Kipling but they don't actually know the real writer. It is one of my favourite things that I was given in the Army. It is called "Don't You Quit" and it is basically about not giving up. It is hard for the students who come here for a year - to learn English, to do 6 GCSEs in a different language, to play sports they have never even heard of, to be away from their family and friends, but they should never ever give up. So that's my advice, just never give up.

[Click here to read "Don't You Quit."](#)

# HOW TO DATE A FOSSIL

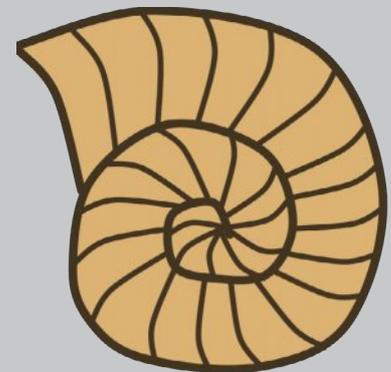
At last Saturday's meeting of the Academic Scholars we discussed the topic of how to date fossils. Dr Penny clearly has great passion for fossils, having researched and published on this field.

Firstly, Dr Penny began by detailing the process involved in describing a new species and then trying to date it within a tolerance of a million years or so. I was somewhat baffled, as an historian, that a million years is regarded as an acceptable degree of tolerance! He then proceeded to tell us how to date the find using radio isotopes.

However, once you have done this you may run into difficulty detailing the exact species and time of its existence. For example, what was presumed to be one specific species of crab, after dating the fossil, could in fact have been a group of entirely different species of crab due to slight differences in shape and structure. Therefore, if you have a species which appears to have survived millions of years and you date it back to certain

periods of time, if there are certain changes it is unclear whether the species has evolved or is entirely different. Secondly, if you build information surrounding a certain species anything other than the original find, the species may have totally different characteristics to the original find a principle named the balloon taxa. (I hope my scientific understanding of this part of the talk is correct, Dr Penny!). The fossils that Dr Penny had successfully found, dated, logged with a museum and published was a pollen fossil, one no bigger than a fingernail. It is astounding that there is such a detailed and rigorous process for dating even the smallest fragments in our world; a truly belittling experience in many ways.

Honestly, sitting through the lecture I felt rather intellectually small and insignificant, such was the depth and range of his knowledge of this fascinating field of study. But I think that is the point of these regular Saturday sessions for the academic scholars: it is about



broadening our horizons, getting a clear understanding of our interests, what we are good at and what we are not. I, for one, now know that I will not become an archaeologist nor have the skills to be a scientist, whereas others in the audience now have a desire to research the topic of archaeology further. Either way our minds were certainly opened up to the wealth of study, information and research outside of Taunton School!

**Jack Kerslake**  
Y10 Academic Scholar